

Publisher's Note

We are pleased to inform you that **Journal of Differential Equations** is now available on ScienceDirect (www.sciencedirect.com), the Elsevier online platform. Access through IDEAL, the former Academic Press platform, will cease as of 1 January 2003.

This signifies that papers published in **Journal of Differential Equations** will henceforth benefit from a vast and rapidly growing readership, currently comprising around 10 million scientists worldwide.

At this juncture, we would like to take the opportunity to update you on our most important developments in electronic publishing, ranging from Web submission processes to the permanent archiving of ScienceDirect content by the Royal Library in The Netherlands.

Firstly, Elsevier has several Web submission systems available to support the work of authors, referees and scientific editors.

We believe that Web submission will ease and speed up the review process, and that it will facilitate the final transmission of accepted files for publication to the Elsevier e-workflow production system. We will introduce you to these systems step-by-step. You will hear more from us on the support for your journal in due course.

The Web submission tool will become available from the “author gateway”. The tool provides access to the following information an author may need:

1. Submission guidance
2. A confidential tracking of submissions, from the review process up to publication, through an author-unique and secure homepage
3. Detailed information on our copyright policy, which is generally considered to be more liberal than most

The “author gateway” for your journal can be accessed at www.authors.elsevier.com/journal/jde.

Secondly, articles published in ScienceDirect have their bibliographic references linked both to articles previously published in ScienceDirect itself and to articles published on electronic platforms of other publishers. Reference linking is facilitated by CrossRef, a collaborative reference linking service that allows the user to click on a citation and be taken directly to the target content (subscription access permitting). To date, 157 publishers participate in CrossRef, amongst them many major Society publishers such as the American Mathematical Society, the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, IEEE, ACM, American Physical Society, American Chemical Society, Optical Society of America, etc., as well as 50 research libraries. Over five million content items have been registered in the CrossRef databases. More information is available from www.crossref.org.

You can look at reference linking in **Journal of Differential Equations** by accessing the journal through www.sciencedirect.com and retrieving a full-text article in HTML. Proceed to the bibliography and you are only one click away from many of the referenced source articles!

Thirdly, the ScienceDirect *Articles in press* service provides immediate electronic publication of accepted typeset articles and author-proofed articles, ahead of print publication (similar to the earlier IDEAL-First functionality), ensuring rapid communication of an author's work to the scientific community.

Additionally and importantly, Elsevier is currently working on incorporating archival material of all its journals in ScienceDirect – we are going back to volume one, issue one, of every single journal, sometimes dating back to the early 19th century. These so-called Backfiles are available in fully-searchable, full-text PDF. Abstracts and references are also available in HTML, with linked references (via CrossRef). Furthermore, when accessing a paper, direct links are available to articles that have cited that paper. This service is provided through 'Cited By', a ScienceDirect facility. More information is available from www.info.sciencedirect.com/backfiles/.

These developments are not only of interest to science historians, but represent significant advances in the methodologies of current scientific literature searches.

To conclude; Elsevier and the Royal Library of the Netherlands (Koninklijke Bibliotheek, KB) signed a contract, in August 2002, to arrange for the KB to become the first official digital, independent archive for Elsevier Science journals. This digital archiving initiative will guarantee, to authors and researchers, that the electronic files will be permanently available. Journals have been called 'the minutes of science'. As we move toward journals being available only in electronic form and being held centrally on publishers' computers, the public has the right to be assured that, should a publisher cease its business, these files will not be lost. This agreement provides such assurance for Elsevier Science titles, which constitute an essential part of the core scientific literature currently published.

We hope that you will continue to find **Journal of Differential Equations** an invaluable source of information for your research, and that you will appreciate the task we have set ourselves of further improving the functionality and visibility of the journal by our electronic publishing efforts.

www.elsevier.com/locate/jde